

# **CHAPTER 34—INLAND NAVIGATIONAL RULES**

## **SUBCHAPTER I—RULES**

### **PART A—GENERAL**

- Sec.  
2001. Application (Rule 1).  
     (a) United States inland waters and Canadian waters of the Great Lakes.  
     (b) International Regulations.  
     (c) Special rules.  
     (d) Vessel traffic service regulations.  
     (e) Alternative compliance.  
     (f) Acceptance of certificates of alternative compliance from contracting parties to International Regulations.
2002. Responsibility (Rule 2).  
     (a) Exoneration.  
     (b) Departure from rules when necessary to avoid immediate danger.
2003. Definitions (Rule 3).

### **PART B—STEERING AND SAILING RULES**

#### **SUBPART I—CONDUCT OF VESSELS IN ANY CONDITION OF VISIBILITY**

2004. Application (Rule 4).  
 2005. Look-out (Rule 5).  
 2006. Safe speed (Rule 6).  
 2007. Risk of collision (Rule 7).  
     (a) Determination if risk exists.  
     (b) Radar.  
     (c) Scanty information.  
     (d) Considerations taken into account in determining if risk exists.
2008. Action to avoid collision (Rule 8).  
     (a) General characteristics of action taken to avoid collision.  
     (b) Readily apparent alterations in course or speed.  
     (c) Alteration of course to avoid close-quarters situation.  
     (d) Action to result in passing at safe distance.  
     (e) Slackening of vessel speed; stopping or reversing means of propulsion.  
     (f) Early action to allow room for safe passage.
2009. Narrow channels (Rule 9).  
     (a) Keeping near to outer limit of channel or fairway which lies on vessel's starboard side; exception.  
     (b) Vessels of less than 20 meters in length; sailing vessels.  
     (c) Vessels engaged in fishing.  
     (d) Crossing narrow channels or fairways.  
     (e) Overtaking vessels.  
     (f) Areas of obscured visibility due to intervening obstructions.  
     (g) Avoidance of anchoring in narrow channels.
2010. Traffic separation schemes (Rule 10).  
     (a) Obligations under other Rules unaffected.  
     (b) Duties for vessel using scheme.  
     (c) Crossing traffic lanes.  
     (d) Use of inshore traffic lane.  
     (e) Entering separation zone or crossing separation line.  
     (f) Caution in areas near termination of scheme.  
     (g) Anchoring.  
     (h) Avoidance of scheme.  
     (i) Fishing vessels.  
     (j) Power-driven vessels.  
     (k) Exemption; maintenance of safety of navigation.  
     (l) Exemption; laying, servicing, or picking up submarine cable.

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#### **SUBPART II—CONDUCT OF VESSELS IN SIGHT OF ONE ANOTHER**

2011. Application (Rule 11).  
 2012. Sailing vessels (Rule 12).  
     (a) Keeping out of the way.  
     (b) Windward side.
2013. Overtaking (Rule 13).  
     (a) Overtaking vessel to keep out of the overtaken vessel's way.  
     (b) Overtaking vessel defined.  
     (c) Assumption that vessel is overtaking another in cases of doubt.  
     (d) Overtaking vessel to become crossing vessel only when finally past and clear.
2014. Head-on situation (Rule 14).  
     (a) Course alterations to starboard; port side passage.  
     (b) Existence of head-on situation.  
     (c) Assumption that head-on situation exists in cases of doubt.  
     (d) Vessel operating on Great Lakes, Western Rivers, or other specified waters, and proceeding downbound with following current.
2015. Crossing situation (Rule 15).  
     (a) Vessel which must keep out of the other vessel's way.  
     (b) Vessels crossing river.
2016. Action by give-way vessel (Rule 16).  
 2017. Action by stand-on vessel (Rule 17).  
     (a) Stand-on vessel to keep course and speed; action allowed when give-way vessel fails to take appropriate action.  
     (b) Action by stand-on vessel allowed when action by give-way vessel alone cannot avoid collision.  
     (c) Crossing situations.  
     (d) Give-way vessel not relieved of obligation to keep out of the way.
2018. Responsibilities between vessels (Rule 18).  
     (a) Power-driven vessels underway.  
     (b) Sailing vessels underway.  
     (c) Vessels engaged in fishing when underway.  
     (d) Seaplanes on the water.

#### **SUBPART III—CONDUCT OF VESSELS IN RESTRICTED VISIBILITY**

2019. Conduct of vessels in restricted visibility (Rule 19).  
     (a) Vessels to which rule applies.  
     (b) Safe speed; engines ready for immediate maneuver.  
     (c) Due regard to prevailing circumstances and conditions.  
     (d) Detection of vessel by radar alone.  
     (e) Reduction of speed to minimum.

### **PART C—LIGHTS AND SHAPES**

2020. Application (Rule 20).  
     (a) Compliance in all weathers.  
     (b) Rules concerning lights complied with from sunset to sunrise; other lights.  
     (c) Lights during daylight hours in restricted visibility; other circumstances.  
     (d) Rules concerning shapes; compliance by day.  
     (e) Annex.
2021. Definitions (Rule 21).  
 2022. Visibility of lights (Rule 22).  
     (a) Vessels of 50 meters or more in length.  
     (b) Vessels of 12 meters or more but less than 50 meters in length.